

Fiscal Year  
**2017**  
**Annual**  
**Report**



Greater Attleboro Taunton  
Regional Transit Authority

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508-823-8828  
[www.gatra.org](http://www.gatra.org)

Created in 1974 by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 161B, the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority provides comprehensive affordable public transportation services to meet the mobility needs of people throughout 28 member communities in southeastern Massachusetts. GATRA transit services include fixed-route bus service, paratransit (Dial-A-Ride) service for people with disabilities and senior citizens, Medicaid and Human Service transportation for MassHealth recipients as well as commuter rail connection services. Funding for GATRA comes from local, state and federal sources.

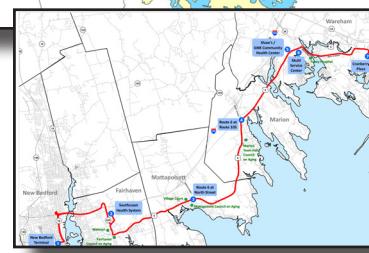
Attleboro  
Bellingham  
Berkley  
Carver  
Dighton  
Duxbury  
Foxborough  
Franklin  
Hanover  
Kingston  
Lakeville  
Mansfield  
Marshfield  
Medway  
Middleborough  
Norfolk  
North Attleboro  
Norton  
Pembroke  
Plainville  
Plymouth  
Raynham  
Rehoboth  
Scituate  
Seekonk  
Taunton  
Wareham  
Wrentham

## The GATRA Service Area and Participating Communities



GATRA service area and existing fixed routes, FY 2017.

Wareham-New Bedford Connection launched in February 2017.



# **Message from the Administrator**

*I am happy to submit the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017 Operations for the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA). The report highlights some of the accomplishments and major events which have taken place during the fiscal year.*

*Fiscal Year 2017 saw a dramatic decrease in ridership for the fixed route service and to a limited degree for demand response service. The continued growth in the economy and stable gas prices as well as other ride options available, especially for our younger transit riders, all were factors that contributed to the decline. As we move into Fiscal Year 2018, these downward trends have slowed but GATRA, as well as many other transit systems, are concerned ridership will continue to remain flat or decrease further in this present economy.*

*Still, there were opportunities for the operation of new services in FY 2017. GATRA extended its popular SLOOP route into North Scituate and launched the Wareham-New Bedford Connection, which not only connects the Gateway Town with the Whaling City, but also connects GATRA to the SRTA service area. And, in response to rider demand, the South Attleboro route now travels to the new Market Basket at Bristol Place.*

*On another positive note, GATRA made some significant capital investments in Fiscal Year 2017 as well as continued to upgrade the RideMatch software program to help our region's riders find available resources to meet their transportation needs. The RideMatch software program has been launched statewide and now utilizes Google Transit technology for more accurate search results.*

*As GATRA moves into Fiscal Year 2018, it is faced with a budget reduction at the state level which will impact its current levels of transit service and throughout the entire RTA network. This again does not help with the ridership issues confronting all the RTAs. As always, GATRA continues to look at new and innovative ways to provide transportation service locally and is working with our local partners to assess and implement all new services.*

*Francis J. Gay*

*Administrator,  
Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority*

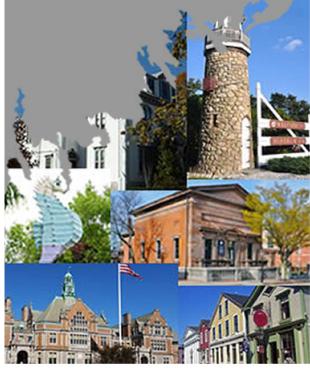




# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Wareham- New Bedford Connection

Effective February 6, 2017



**GATRA**

**SRTA**

## New Service Accomplishments:

- **Extended the SLOOP service to North Scituate - January 2017**
- **Launched Wareham-New Bedford Connection - February 2017**  
A new bus service connecting riders to vital services in both the GATRA and SRTA service areas was launched in early 2017. The route originates at the New Bedford Terminal and travels along Route 6 between Fairhaven and Wareham.
- **Taunton Terminal Renovations**  
The Authority made a commitment to improve life safety and air quality systems at the Taunton terminal in FY 2017.

## Capital Accomplishments:

- **Purchase of New Buses**

Three (3) new buses were delivered and placed into service during the fiscal year. These new buses are 30' in length and will be used in the Plymouth fixed-route system.

- **Van Replacement**

During the fiscal year, GATRA purchased 11 passenger vans. These new vans replaced aging Dial-A-Ride vehicles in use in the following communities:

- Attleboro/Taunton (5)
- Carver (1)
- Mansfield (1)
- Pembroke (1)
- Wareham (1)
- Wrentham (1)
- United DAR\* (1)



GATRA purchased three 30 ft. buses and 11 passenger vans in FY 2017.

\* The communities of Foxborough, Franklin, Norfolk, and Wrentham comprise the United DAR.

# PLANNING

## Planning Accomplishments:

**State Wide Public Transit Process** – During the fiscal year GATRA participated in meetings of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA) which covered issues relating to state funding of public transportation beyond the greater Boston area.

At the same time, GATRA continues to rely on its own Regional Transit Plan which was adopted in September 2015 as its guiding document in looking at new or changes in services. Unfortunately, a lot of which was identified in the plan requires new operating assistance and this has not become a reality with state funding partners.

GATRA will continue to work with the Legislature to educate it about the necessity for additional services and funding which can be used to meet those needs.

GATRA continues its transit planning contract with its regional planning agency, Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD). SRPEDD staff conducts a majority of GATRA's short and long term planning activities, reviews ridership trends and identifies new areas of the market for public transit services.





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout the year, GATRA participates in numerous community outreach events at area high schools and colleges, councils on aging, senior housing complexes, and local YMCAs. GATRA staff also attends regional, state, and national transportation conferences. Our goal is to keep current on public transportation trends and build awareness as well as promote GATRA's fixed route and Dial-a-Ride services to the communities we serve. Here is a sampling of the many outreach meetings and events that GATRA attended in FY '17:

- Taunton Area School to Career (TASC), Taunton High School, July 2016
- Duxbury High School, Informational Session, July 2016
- Wheaton College New Students' Orientation Weekend, August 2016
- ATI Mobility Conference, St.Paul, MN, August 2016
- Community Counseling of Bristol County Resource Fair, Sept. 2016
- Franklin Senior Expo, Franklin Senior Center, September 2016
- Taunton Council on Aging Resources & Info Fair, Taunton COA, September 2016
- CEATI, Las Vegas, NV, October 2016
- MassDOT Moving Together 2016 Transit Session, October 2016
- Attleboro School to Career Partnership (Transition Night), November 2016
- SRPEDD Kick Off Meeting for Bus Stop Capital Improvement, February 2017
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Information Night, February 2017
- Community Counseling of Bristol County Health Fair, February 2017
- Neponset Valley Regional Coordinating Council, Ongoing Meetings, 2017
- Healthy Plymouth Career Fair, March 2017
- John Parker Middle School, Parent University, Taunton, March 2017
- Taunton High School, Intro to High School Night, April 2017
- Massachusetts Community Transportation Conference, May 2017
- Arbor Fuller Hospital Health Fair, Attleboro, May 2017
- GATRA Consumer Advisory Committee (GCAC) Meetings - monthly 2016/17
- Taunton Emergency Task Force Meetings - monthly 2016/17
- SERCCOT Meetings - monthly 2016/17

# PARTNERSHIPS



**United Way  
of Greater Attleboro/Taunton**



Each year, GATRA receives funding from the United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton (UWGAT) to provide vital programs such as MedWheels, a shared long-distance medical van service for seniors, persons with disabilities and low income individuals, plus a free bus pass program for Taunton area agencies and their clients.

GATRA in partnership with MassDOT and NuRide, offer riders' rewards for choosing healthier and "greener" transportation options through the NuRide program. NuRide was developed to encourage people to make greener trips and earn rewards for doing so. From riding the GATRA bus, to walking, carpooling, van pooling, and biking, this program rewards points that can be accumulated and then redeemed for retail discounts, restaurant coupons, and tickets to shows and attractions.



For the seventh year, GATRA has partnered with the Taunton Area School to Career, Inc., to provide travel training instruction to high school students in the work-study program. Travel training instruction teaches students how to travel safely and independently using public transportation.



GATRA participates in the South East Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation (SERCCOT), which provides an ongoing forum for open discussion where stakeholders can exchange information about transportation access issues, especially as they relate to low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities. SERCCOT works toward increasing transportation opportunities for both consumers and the communities in the southeastern section of the GATRA region.



# RIDERSHIP STATISTICS

## 2017

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	767,711	294,052	1,634,255	2,696,018

## 2016

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	832,044	272,608	1,636,165	2,740,817

## 2015

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	849,716	262,417	1,530,383	2,642,516

**Fixed Route by Service Area****Unlinked Passenger Trips**

Attleboro/Taunton	491,624
Plymouth Area Link (PAL)	117,108
Marshfield/Duxbury/Kingston (SAIL)	31,633
Onset Wareham Link (OWL)	80,270
Franklin Area Bus (FAB)	10,807
Tri-Town Connector	3,536
Bellingham Commuter Shuttle	3,894
Medway Commuter Shuttle	8,091
Middleborough Downtown Shuttle	10,124
Pembroke Commuter Shuttle	1,515
Scituate SLOOP Shuttle	8,594
Wareham/New Bedford Shuttle	515
<b>Total Fixed Route</b>	<b>767,711</b>

**Demand Response by Town****Unlinked Passenger Trips**

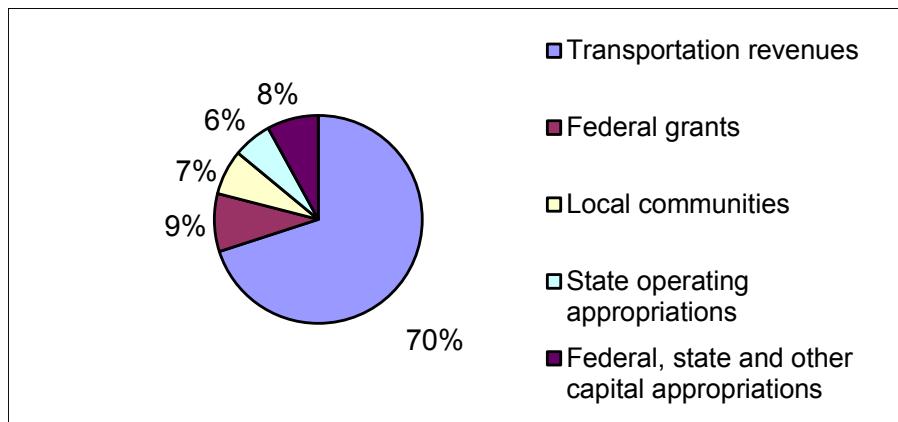
United Dial-A-Ride (Foxborough, Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham)	22,621
Attleboro/Taunton	111,471
Bellingham	7,237
Carver	6,449
Duxbury	10,384
Hanover	3,231
Kingston	9,435
Lakeville	2,555
Mansfield	9,565
Marshfield	5,693
Medway	2,112
Middleborough	10,358
Pembroke	7,984
Plainville	3,256
Plymouth	32,676
Scituate	4,127
Wareham	19,862
Wrentham	2,444
<b>Total Demand Response</b>	<b>294,052</b>



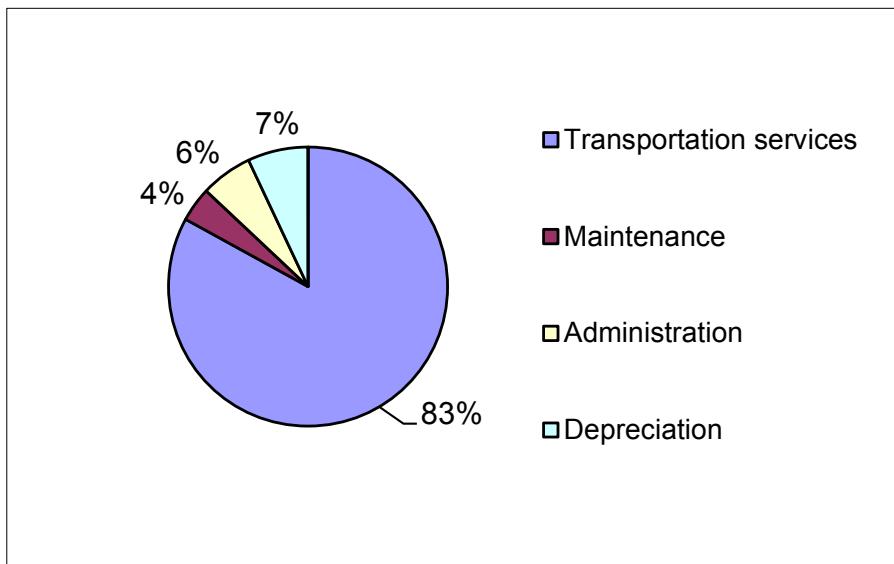
# FINANCE

The revenues and expenses by source for GATRA operations for the period ending June 30, 2017 are delineated in the following graphs:

**Revenues by Source  
FY 2017**



**Expenses by Source  
FY 2017**



# LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS



## The 2016 Elections

During his campaign run, Donald Trump pledged he would ask Congress to invest in infrastructure. However, in May 2017, Trump's 2018 budget proposal revealed a 13 percent cut to U.S. DOT funding. In response, Congress disregarded President Trump's budget proposal to slash a number of federal transit programs and instead voted to increase 2017 funding for many of those same initiatives. Still, advocates and non-profit organizations like the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) fear that Trump will move again to cut or phase out key transit programs, including funding for regional transit grants. This action is likely to negatively impact state funding for public transit programs in 2018 and beyond.

## On the State Level

The state legislature needs to instruct MassDOT to undertake a mass transit policy statement for the entire Commonwealth, and not just the Greater Boston Area. There is no overarching transit policy which details the levels or types of services to be provided throughout the Commonwealth. The failure to have such a guiding document allows for administrations to propose and fund transit programs within their own priorities without addressing a statewide blueprint for services. A statewide blueprint would provide all interested parties, including the regional transit authorities, with a clear list of priorities that recognizes a common set of goals for all urban areas throughout the Commonwealth is essential for an effective and coordinated system. Until a statewide mass transit policy is adopted, the administration will continue to prioritize to meet its own needs of providing mass transit outside the City of Boston.



# ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

COMMUNITY	ELECTED OFFICIAL	DESIGNEE
Attleboro	Mayor Kevin J. Dumas	Mayor Kevin J. Dumas
Bellingham	Michael Soter	Laura DeMattia, COA Director
Berkley	George F. Miller	Gil Pontes, Selectman
Carver	Alan Dunham	Carole Julius, COA Director
Dighton	John P. Taylor	Alice Souza, COA Director
Duxbury	Shawn Dahlen	Joanne Moore, COA Director
Foxborough	David S. Feldman	Vicki Lowe, COA Director
Franklin	Matthew Kelly	Robert Dellorco, Town Council Member
Hanover	Brian Barthelmes	Robyn Mitton, COA Director
Kingston	R. Lindsay Wilson, II	Tammy Murray, COA Director
Lakeville	John Powderly	James Gouveia
Mansfield	Michael Trowbridge	Gale Farrugia, COA Director
Marshfield	Michael J. Bradley	Greg Guimond, Town Planner
Medway	Glenn Trindade	Courtney Riley
Middleboro	Allin Frawley	Andrea Priest, COA Director
Norfolk	Scott Bugbee	Scott Bragdon, Human Services Director
No. Attleboro	Michael Lennox	JoAnn Cathcart, Admin. Office
Norton	Timothy Giblin	Richard Leitch
Pembroke	Willard J. Boulter	Anna Seery, COA Director
Plainville	Andrea Soucy	Leland Ross, COA Board Member
Plymouth	Kenneth Tavares	Sean Page
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	Elizabeth Moura, COA Director
Rehoboth	Frederick Vadnais, Jr.	Bradley Marshall, Outreach Worker, SHINE
Scituate	Martin J. O'Toole	Linda Hayes, COA Director
Seekonk	David Andrade	Bernie Huck, COA Director
Taunton	Mayor Thomas C. Hoye	Mayor Thomas C. Hoye
Wareham	Peter W. Teitelbaum	Alan Slavin, Selectmen
Wrentham	Jerome P. McGovern	Janet Angelico, COA Director

Disabled Rider Community Representative  
Rider Community Representative

Anthony Marino  
Vacant